

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region**

**Executive Officer's Report  
Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer**

**April 13, 2000**

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**GROUNDWATER DIVISION**

Dennis Dasker Appointed to the Position of Assistant Executive Officer

Dennis Dasker has been selected to permanently fill the position of Assistant Executive Officer (CEA) as the Division Chief of the Groundwater Protection Division. Dennis replaces Jim Kuykendall who left last November to join the State Board. Dennis has been serving as Principal Engineer and Division Chief on an interim basis. Dennis has worked with this Regional Board for 28 years in nearly every program and has led our NPDES permit program for a number of years before assuming the role of Principal Engineer. His experience and knowledge will serve the Regional Board well as he assumes this responsibility on a permanent basis.

**A. ENFORCEMENT & REMEDIATION**

**Enforcement**

**ACL Issued to the city of Los Angeles for Discharges at the Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant**

Sam Unger

On February 15, 2000, the Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability (ACL), in the amount of \$125,397, to the City of Los Angeles for discharge of partially treated sewage from the LA/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant. At least 1,400,000 gallons of secondary wastewater were discharged to reclaimed water distribution systems and distributed to customers, resulting in a threat to public health. The City plans to contest the Complaint at the Board's public meeting on April 13, 2000. In a separate action, the Regional Board issued Time Schedule Order No. 98-071 for the LA/Glendale Plant, requiring the City to upgrade in order to comply with new limits in its NPDES permit; however, the Superior Court has issued a stay of the Time Schedule Order.

**CAO Issued to The Malibu Bay Club Incorporated for Sewage Discharge**

Hugh Marley

The Malibu Bay Club (Discharger) is a homeowners association responsible for a 134-unit condominium complex located at 41000 Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County. These condominiums discharge up to 59,000 gallons per day of domestic wastes through five 10,000-gallon septic tanks and two leachfield disposal beds, under waste discharge requirements specified in Order No. 94-136. As the leachfields are close to the surf zone, an elevated seawall was constructed several years ago to protect the leachfields from wave action and erosion.

The County of Ventura Environmental Health Division notified Board staff that inspections conducted on December 27, 1999, January 24, 2000, and January 26, 2000 revealed the existence of sewage on the ground surface. On February 23, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Order No. 2000-14, requiring the Discharger to clean up and abate the condition of surface pollution and threatened pollution caused by the release of sewage, and to submit a report of waste discharge for revised Waste Discharge Requirements.

#### **CAO Issued to the County Of Los Angeles, Probation Department for Sewage Discharge**

Hugh Marley

The County of Los Angeles, Probation Department (Discharger) houses up to 190 youths at Camp Glenn Rockey, a juvenile youth camp at 1900 North Sycamore Canyon Road, San Dimas. The sewage collection system (six-inch vitrified clay pipe) for the Camp and an adjacent nursery crosses a steep slope below the two facilities, and then connects to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's regional collection system, for treatment at the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant.

The slope below the facility was subject to a brush fire in the summer 1998 and subsequently eroded. The City of San Dimas staff investigated a complaint of recurring sewage-like odor in the vicinity of Sycamore Canyon. Investigations by City staff indicated sewage discharging from a drainage structure at the base of the slope below the Camp. On March 3, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Order No. 2000-14 requiring that the Discharger immediately clean up and abate the condition of surface pollution and threatened pollution caused by the release of sewage.

#### **Technical Update on the Impact of Septic Systems in the Malibu Valley Area**

Rick Vergets

On March 22, 2000, Regional Board staff presented preliminary findings of a technical investigation to the SMBRP Task Force. Rick Vergets summarized findings regarding pollutants in the septic system discharges, including volatile organic compounds. Board staff also provided information to the Task Force that groundwater in the Malibu Valley area has been degraded by septic system discharges, citing the presence of ammonia and bacteria in the groundwater. The preliminary information also suggests that surface water may be being degraded by septic system discharges. Finally, Board staff talked about the timing of new permits, indicating it would complete one to two new septic system permits per Board meeting.

#### **Revised ACL Issued to Los Angeles Turf Club Inc. for the Discharge of Non-Stormwater Waste**

Hugh Marley

The Los Angeles Turf Club Inc. (LATC) operates the Santa Anita Park (Park) located at 285 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, where horses are stabled and trained, and horseracing events are conducted. On August 31, 1999, Los Angeles County Flood Maintenance Division (DPW) personnel observed a high volume of non-stormwater waste being discharged from the LATC's outfalls. LATC stated that the discharges consisted of 15,000 gallons of water used to wash down a maintenance yard, in addition to the roughly 35,000 gallons of horse wash water discharged from the stable area. On October 26, 1999, the Regional Board Executive Officer issued LATC ACL No. 99-097 for the August 31, 1999 discharge based, in part, on LATC's statements that 15,000 gallons of water were used to wash down the maintenance yard on August 31, 1999. On December 20, 1999, LATC submitted new data and two sworn affidavits from LATC employees indicating that the number of

gallons of water discharged to the storm drain as a result of the wash-down operations on August 31, 1999 may have been less than the 15,000 gallons originally reported to the Board.

In light of the new data submitted by LATC, Board staff determined that the amount of water discharged to the storm drain as a result of the wash-down operations on August 31, 1999 may have been approximately 13,750 gallons. On March 2, 2000, the Regional Board directed staff to re-issue LATC an ACL for the August 31 discharge, based on the revised finding of a discharge volume of 13,750 gallons. On March 24, 2000, the Executive Officer incorporated the new data and findings into, and issued ACL No. 2000-36 to LATC for \$ 137,500. The penalty has been paid.

**Halaco Engineering, Inc.**

Rick Vergets

Halaco Engineering, Inc. is a metal recycling facility in the City of Oxnard adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and wetlands. Halaco discharges wastewater under Waste Discharge Requirements issued in 1980. Halaco directs the wastewater to a bermed unlined pond on top of a wastepile which covers an area of approximately 13 acres and with a thickness of up to 40 feet. This wastepile is surrounded on three sides by wetlands.

Upon analyzing samples from inspections in late 1999 and 2000, staff determined that the unlined ponds are not fully containing the wastes, as wastewaters are leaching into the surrounding wetlands and possibly the groundwater. Leachate seeps exist on the east and west sides of the bermed unlined pond. Regional Board staff issued a notice of violation (NOV) to Halaco on February 14, 2000, citing six violations of Halaco's WDRs. The NOV directed Halaco to provide a workplan by March 14, 2000. Although Halaco submitted a workplan by the due date, Regional Board staff have notified Halaco that this workplan is deficient, and advised Halaco that it may be subject to further enforcement.

**Meet and Confer Process invoked to Address Litter Discharges from the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek**

Dennis Dickerson

On February 28, 2000, the Executive Officer issued a Notice to Meet and Confer (NTMC) - regarding the inadequacy of storm water controls to reduce anthropogenic trash and litter in municipal storm water discharges. This action was taken to begin the process provided for in the Los Angeles Municipal Storm Water and Urban Runoff NPDES permit issued by this Board whenever the receiving water provisions contained within that permit are not achieved.

The basis for this action was the discharge of large volumes of trash and litter from the Los Angeles River to the Long Beach harbor and from Ballona Creek to Santa Monica Bay. Releases of substantial quantities of trash and litter have occurred repeatedly over the years in the Long Beach and Ballona Creek watersheds. Despite efforts on the part of the County and the municipalities covered by Board Order 96-054, this problem remains substantial. These releases exceed the levels allowed pursuant to the Regional Board's Basin Plan, result in the continued listing of these waterways on the federal 303 (d) list of impaired waters, and create a condition of nuisance. In making a determination of inadequacy under Part 2. I. G. of the municipal permit, the Executive Officer found that the Permittees are not taking adequate steps to address this continuing and recurring problem by reducing pollutants to the Maximum Extent Practicable standard contained within that permit and as established by federal regulation.

The Executive Officer's letter of February 28th also provided that Permittees must meet and confer with the Regional Board by March 30, 2000. However, given the large number of Co-Permittees seeking individual meetings and the limited time available to meet the March 30, 2000 deadline, On March 14th, the Executive Officer extended the date for individual Co-Permittee meetings with the Regional Board until May 31, 2000. The date of July 31st established in the February 28th NTMC letter for submittal of a Storm Water Program Compliance Amendment remains unchanged.

The March 14th letter also clarified that only those Co-Permittees within the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds are subject to the NTMC directive. In the future, other watersheds may become subject to the Meet and Confer process if such a determination is deemed necessary.

On March 21st, the Executive Officer also issued a directive (pursuant to Section 13267 of the Water Code) to the Co-Permittees to collect information on the discharge of trash and litter from their communities to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). Portions of the directive apply to all Co-Permittees while others aspects of the directive apply only to those Co-Permittees in the Los Angeles and Ballona Creek watersheds.

#### **Quarterly Report of Violations and Enforcement Actions to be Included in Future Reports**

Al Novak

The usual quarterly report of violations and enforcement actions has not been included due to the switch over from our in-house database to the State Board's statewide System for Information on Non Compliance (SINC). When SINC is up and running, the reports will be included in the Executive Officer's Report, as before.

#### **Cleanup Projects**

#### **Staff Participate in an Informational Hearing before Assemblyman Calderon's Select Assembly Committee on San Gabriel Valley Groundwater**

Wendy Phillips

On March 17, 2000, the Regional Board and other agencies participated in a third informational hearing before Assemblyman Calderon's Select Assembly Committee. Previous hearings had focussed on problems and future direction in the San Gabriel Basin cleanup effort. The hearing on March 17, 2000 focussed on the past activities of the Water Quality Authority (WQA), which is scheduled to sunset in 2002. Other participants included USEPA, other state agencies, Main San Gabriel Valley Watermaster, water purveyors, responsible parties, and other concerned parties. Dennis Dickerson and Wendy Phillips testified regarding Regional Board efforts to oversee soil cleanups in the Baldwin Park and South El Monte Operable Units. Following this hearing, Regional Board staff will be meeting with the WQA to discuss the WQA's direction and plans.

#### **CAOs in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Face Opposition**

Ejigu Solomon

The Baldwin Park Operable Unit is part of a large Superfund area in San Gabriel Valley. Groundwater in this area (Baldwin Park and Azusa) has been contaminated by chlorinated solvents and emerging chemicals. Since November 1999, the Executive Officer has issued 12 CAOs to responsible parties in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit. Ten of the 12 CAO recipients have petitioned the State Board to rescind the CAOs. Prior to the consideration of these petitions by the State Board, the Regional Board will review staffs' actions during the public meeting. Of the remaining two recipients, one is claiming financial hardship, and the other has refused to acknowledge delivery of the Cleanup and Abatement Order.

Of the 10 dischargers petitioning the CAOs, several have indicated that--despite the petitions--they are willing to proceed with water quality assessments and, toward this end, attended a workshop on January 20, 2000 to coordinate and optimize groundwater monitoring. Staff will conduct a second workshop on March 30th, to address approaches to assessing emergent chemicals in the unsaturated zone. For more information, call Solomon at (213) 576-6727.

#### **CAOs and ACLs Issued in the South El Monte Operable Unit**

Yi Lu

The South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU) is another part of the large Superfund area in the San Gabriel Valley, where groundwater has been contaminated by chlorinated solvents and, as recently discovered, by emerging chemicals. Through a cooperative agreement with USEPA, Regional Board staff has identified over 40 facilities in the SEMOU that are responsible for this contamination. Although many of these facilities are undertaking assessment and cleanup on a cooperative basis, several facilities are making little or no progress. Accordingly, the Executive Officer has started issuing enforcement orders to these facilities, including two Cleanup and Abatement Orders to the former Multi-Chemical Products and to the former Anchor Plating and an Administrative Civil Liability in the amount of \$30,300 to Insul Acoustics, Inc.

#### **Unocal Petitions State Board to Rescind the CAO Issued for the Former Unocal Tank Farm**

David Hung

On February 11, 2000, the Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 2000-03, directing Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) to cleanup soil and groundwater at its former Norwalk tank farm. Contaminants include petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs, metals, and methane gas. The extent of the soil and groundwater contamination has not been fully defined. Unocal has petitioned the State Board to rescind the issuance of this CAO.

#### **Staff Address Contamination with the Owners of the Country Hills Shopping Center in Torrance**

Rebecca Chou

On March 3, 2000, Regional Board staff met with Watt Family Properties (Watt), the property owner, to discuss acid and sulfate contamination present at the Country Hills Shopping Center. The source of the soil contaminants and potential groundwater impacts at the site have not been determined. Staff has commented on "Report of Groundwater Contamination and Workplan for Additional Subsurface Investigation," dated January 27, 2000, and directed Watt to submit a revised workplan by April 10, 2000. On March 16, 2000, staff also responded in writing to public comments and questions raised by the residents during the February 9, 2000, City of Torrance Neighborhood meeting.

#### **Landfills**

##### **Landfill Projects**

By Rod Nelson

Staff plan to distribute tentative permits, for public comment, in early April for the Claremont Inert Landfill and for the Calabasas Class III Landfill. The intent is for the Regional Board to consider adoption of these tentative permits at a public meeting on May 25, 2000. For information on Claremont, please call Paul Cho at (213) 576-6721. For information on Calabasas, please call Blythe Poniek Backarowski at (213) 576-6720.

#### **Industrial Storm Water Program**

##### **Compliance Update**

Raymond Jay

Annual Industrial Storm Water Reports for all Industrial Storm Water General facilities were due on July 1, 1999. Approximately 2,585 annual reports for the 2,892 Industrial Storm Water Facilities within the Region have been received and entered into the SWRCB database by staff. A more detailed review of the annual reports to determine adequacy of the information submitted is currently underway. 446 Notices of Non-Compliance for Failure to Submit the Annual Reports were mailed out on October 26, 1999. A 2nd level enforcement letter was sent to the remaining 198 facilities that did not respond to the Level 1 letter. A response to the 2nd level enforcement letter was due before

February 1, 2000. 58 of those facilities did not submit the requested information and will require an ACL. An ACL to Chano's Auto Wrecking and Sales for failure to submit three annual reports was amended by the Board to \$12,075.00.

## **B. UNDERGROUND TANKS**

### **Charnock Sub-basin MTBE Investigation Area Update**

Harry Patel

At present there are 26 active sites in the Charnock Sub-Basin. Of the 26 active sites, site assessment has been completed at 16 sites, whereas there are 10 sites where additional site assessment is either underway or planned to be performed in the near future. Groundwater monitoring is being performed at all the sites. Quarterly groundwater monitoring reports are received, reviewed, and commented upon within a short time. A total of six sites have approved remediation workplans for the cleanup of the soil and groundwater. Two of the sites needed to pump-and-treat the groundwater and discharge it to the storm drain under an NPDES permit. The NPDES permits were approved by the Regional Board during the July 8, 1999 Board meeting. Soil and groundwater remediation has begun at two of the sites, on-site soil remediation is underway at two sites, limited offsite remediation has been initiated at one site, and a pilot plan for dual phase extraction has been approved at an additional site.

Staff performs a project status update telephone conference with the interested parties and USEPA. Staff also attends meetings and participates in telephone conferences to discuss the pilot project cleanup alternatives for the remediation of the groundwater.

On September 22, 1999, the Executive Officer and EPA issued separate enforcement orders to Shell Oil Company/Shell Oil Products Company/Equilon Enterprises LLC (collectively called Shell) for water replacement costs. The Orders were issued to ensure the residence of the City of Santa Monica and Culver City continue to receive historic water supplies in the wake of MTBE groundwater pollution at the Charnock Wellfields. The enforcement Orders require Shell to either provide replacement water of a suitable quality or to pay the City of Santa Monica and Southern California Water Company to purchase replacement water. The cost to purchase replacement water is estimated at \$3.5 million per year. Shell began making monthly payments for the water on January 7, 2000.

On March 10, 2000 EPA issued a Water Replacement Order to ARCO, Best California Gas Company, Chevron, CONOCO, Douglas Oil Co. of CA, Exxon, Mobil, Tosco, Unocal, Kazuho Nishida and HLW West Corporation. The Board issued a support letter on March 14, 2000. A participate and cooperate request has been sent to the above listed parties for area wide assessment and RI/FS study of the Charnock Subbasin.

Staff and EPA had issued unilateral Cleanup and Abatement Orders (CAO) to CONOCO on April 20, 1999. The CAO required CONOCO to perform site investigation in a tiered approach with on-site soil and groundwater investigation to be followed by off-site assessment and data interpretation of the subsurface lithology. Tier One work has been 90 percent completed at the site under direction from the Regional Board and USEPA. Preliminary data indicates MTBE contamination of the soil.

### **Arcadia Wellfield MTBE Investigation Update**

Jay Huang

The shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the former Mobil Station 18-LDM has been treated with a pump and treat system since October 1997. The treatment system is capable of pumping 35 gallon per minutes (GPM) of extracted groundwater water. Currently, approximately 5 to 6 GPM of groundwater are being pumped from 11 groundwater extraction wells. The MTBE concentration in the combined influent ranged from 210 ug/L to 620 ug/L. To date (2/15/00) the treatment system has pumped 7.4 million gallons of groundwater and removed an estimated amount of 56 pounds of

TPH and 173 pounds of MTBE.

The impacted soil in the vadose zone has been treated with a vapor extraction system (VES). The cumulative VOC mass removed is 9,131 pounds since May 1999.

A Production Aquifer Remediation System (PARS) using activated carbon filtering to clean up the production aquifer has been designed and approved by this Regional Board. In a public hearing by City of Los Angeles Planning Department on August 12, 1999, the variance application for the installation of PARS has been approved. Mobil has selected a subcontractor, Olson Construction, to construct the PARS. Construction of PARS is underway and expected to be completed by April of 2000. PARS operation is scheduled to commence in April 2000.

A Remedial Action Plan to clean up the MTBE contamination in the lower aquifer has been approved on May 21, 1999. Mobil has selected a subcontractor (Komex) to build the lower aquifer remediation system (LARS). The construction of LARS has been completed and the system has been in operation since March 6, 2000.

### **San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin MTBE Investigation Update**

Hubert Kang

On December 10, 1999, the Los Angeles River Watershed Unit of the Underground Storage Tank Section opened four areas within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin for MTBE pollution investigations. The State Department of Health Services identified where MTBE had been detected in several Drinking Water Systems. Three of the wellfields are operated by the City of Los Angeles (North Hollywood, Tujunga, and Verdugo wellfields) and one wellfield is operated by the City of Burbank (Burbank Operable Unit).

Questionnaires were sent initially to 58 potential responsible parties and one later in January 2000. The parties were required to collect information on their sites, which are located within an approximate one-mile radius of each wellfield area and to submit information by January 21, 2000.

Currently, a total of 49 parties submitted information, including three voluntary sites that were not identified in our initial inquiry. Five sites have extended due dates to submit the information, and six sites need to be verified owner/operator information. Two out of 17 parties to which enforcement letters were sent during February 2000 for failing to submit our initial questionnaire have not yet responded.

Recently, the Burbank Operable Unit operator, Lockheed Martin Corp., and the City of Burbank contended the validity of MTBE data reported by the State Department of Health Services, and Regional Board staff requested to provide the data for our review and evaluation. Further, the recent State Department of Health Services information excluded the Burbank Operable Unit from the MTBE in Drinking Water list. If after discussion with City of Burbank and the State Dept. of Health Services about BOU's MTBE data, it is determined that the original data provided was not accurate or representative, then this area will not be opened for active investigation and sites will be notified of this decision.

UST staff plan start to review the information received for their adequacy and to follow up those who failed to submit the questionnaires or submit inadequate responses. Further, UST staff will make another round of field surveys to verify the owners and mailing addresses and to ensure that all potential gasoline sites have been identified.

Upon review of the information received, staff will pursue further investigation to identify the sources(s) and, where appropriate, require hydrogeologic assessments and cleanup activities.

### **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Geographic Information System Update**

Joe Luera

In response to the Governor's Executive Order D-5-99, UST staff is continuing to integrate the use of GIS into the case review process. Case review has been prioritized based on distance to nearby production wells and groundwater recharge areas. Currently, the focus has been on updating active sites that are between 1000 feet and 0.5 mile from a production well. This process will continue for sites that are progressively further from production wells and recharge areas. Also, an additional GIS student assistant was hired to help create individual maps for each active LUST site. Each map indicates the number and locations of any production wells and other LUST sites within a one-mile radius of the site. By the end of the June 2000, maps should be completed for all active LUST Sites.

#### **Completion of Corrective Action at Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tank Sites**

Gregg Kwey

Board staff have reviewed corrective actions taken for soil and/or groundwater contamination problems from leaking UST's for the time of February 11, 2000, through March 17, 2000, and determined that no further corrective actions are required:

Former Chevron Service Station No 9-2067, Manhattan Beach (I-09867)  
United States Postal Service, Los Angeles (900280089)

## **SURFACE WATER DIVISION**

### **C. REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

#### **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**

##### **Staff Participate in a Meeting to Discuss Technical Work for the Calleguas Watershed Chloride TMDL**

Elizabeth Erickson

A meeting to discuss ongoing technical work by stakeholders and staff on the Calleguas watershed chloride TMDL was held on March 3, 2000. Deborah Smith, Jon Bishop, Melinda Becker, and Elizabeth Erickson attended. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2000 at Calleguas Municipal Water District. The basic elements of the Basin Plan amendment and the Board's strategy for adoption of the amendment and implementation plan for the chloride TMDL were discussed. For further information please call Melinda Becker at (213) 576-6681 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6683.

##### **Draft Trash TMDL for the LA River Watershed is Released to the Public**

Myriam Zech

A draft version of the Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Los Angeles River watershed was released to the public on February 17, 2000, and can be viewed on the internet on the Regional Board's website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

In the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds, storm drains are a primary conveyor of trash to waterways. Trash reduction allocations will be incorporated into storm water permits, which will be modified to address monitoring and implementation of the trash TMDL. This TMDL will

eventually incorporate load allocations for each city based on estimates of current trash discharges which are correlated with different land uses. The implementation plan will include a phased schedule to meet the ultimate goal of zero discharge of trash within a 10-year period. The proposed numeric target for trash in the river is zero. While it is feasible to implement significant reductions of trash in the river, it may not be possible to achieve the goal of zero. Therefore, the Board may consider reviewing the threshold of beneficial use impact during or after the seventh year of implementation of the TMDL if significant trash reductions have been achieved.

Comments on the current draft will be received from stakeholders until April 14, 2000, and will be considered in the drafting of the Basin Plan Amendment language and draft final TMDLs for both the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds, as the Los Angeles River Trash TMDL will serve as a template for the Ballona Creek Trash TMDL. Questions and comments on this new draft TMDL can be directed to Debbie Smith at (213) 576-6609 or Myriam Zech at (213) 576-6685.

The Basin Plan Amendment and final TMDLs for both the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek are scheduled for release for public comment on or about May 15, 2000. The final TMDL and Basin Plan Amendments are scheduled to be heard during the Regional Board's July 2000 meeting.

#### **Staff Attend Training for TMDL Practitioners**

Melinda Becker

Several staff members attended the "Training for TMDL Practitioners" course conducted in Riverside, California on March 22. The course was presented by Tetra Tech, as part of USEPA's Watershed Academy series. After an overview of the policy and litigation history of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), several case studies were presented. Various approaches for developing TMDLs based on the impairment, the data needs, local conditions, etc. were discussed. A presentation of important factors in selecting water quality models illuminated the need to choose an appropriate model for each hydraulic regime, constituent, and set of critical conditions. A training manual containing modeling information, case studies, policies, and litigation history was provided to each of the attendees.

#### **Nonpoint Source Program**

##### **Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

Raymond Jay

Regional Board staff is preparing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) recommendation for Blue Star Materials, an in-stream gravel mining operation which involves an 80-acre excavation of approximately 500,000 cubic yards of aggregate material from the East Branch of Sespe Creek in the City of Fillmore. The applicant will limit excavation to the dry season, conduct water quality monitoring, and perform regular mining surveys to avoid over-excavation. Staff's recommendations will specify detailed conditions to ensure compliance with water quality standards. Once approved, these conditions will be proposed as a boilerplate for all future in-stream-mining operations within the region.

##### **NOVs Issued for Squid Discharges in the Los Angeles Harbor**

Raymond Jay

In response to water quality violations in the Los Angeles Harbor, seven Notice of Violation (NOV) letters were sent to squid and/or fish offloading operations on March 17. Previous field work had documented that dissolved oxygen levels in the Harbor were not meeting water quality objectives in and around the squid offloading areas of several boats. The resulting DO levels were not sufficient to support most aquatic organisms. The NOVs required operators to cease all discharges until they do one of the following: obtain an NPDES permit, submit and implement a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) sufficient to eliminate the polluted condition, or discharge the waste to a sanitary sewer system. To date, one operator has responded and is willing to implement appropriate BMPs.

### **NPS Workshop for 319 Grants**

Raymond Jay

One responsibility of the NPS Program is the management and coordination of Clean Water Act Section 319 and 205 grant contracts. Staff have been preparing for a workshop on grant request for proposals (RFPs) that will take place on March 29, from 10 - 4. The State Board and the USEPA will be here to help conduct the workshop. The training will familiarize project proponents with the State contracting process and the recently released Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. It will also provide an opportunity for the public to meet and discuss potential projects with the RWQCB staff. Staff will explain our targeted watersheds and projects that will be the most likely to receive funding.

## **D. WATERSHED REGULATORY**

### **Ventura County Municipal Storm Water Permit**

Tracy Patterson

Regional Board staff have conducted a number of meetings with Ventura County Flood Control and representatives of the ten cities, the co-permittees of the Ventura County Municipal Stormwater Permit, to frame the content of the draft permit and monitoring program. Future meetings to discuss the draft with environmental groups and other concerned organizations are scheduled for the week of March 27, 2000. The permit is scheduled to go before the Board on May 25, 2000.

### **1994 Consent Decree Status Report - Joint Water Pollution Control Plant**

Winnie Jesena

On February 23, 2000, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County held the semi-annual meeting to report the status of the Districts' compliance with the requirements of the consent decree. Representatives of the USEPA, the Regional Board and the intervenors, Heal the Bay and NRDC, attended the meeting. The remaining consent decree requirements are: a) complete construction of additional secondary treatment facilities at the Joint Plant by June 30, 2002; b) achieve full secondary treatment by January 1, 2003; and, c) increase reuse of reclaimed water to reach a goal of 150 million gallons per day by 2002.

The construction of secondary treatment facilities at the Joint Plant is on schedule to meet the completion deadline. Although a delay was experienced during the early stages of construction, the contractor and the Districts have successfully recovered the time lost. During the meeting, the Districts reported that barring unforeseen circumstances, it is projected that construction will be completed by February of 2002 rather than the June 30, 2002 deadline.

The Districts reported an increase in the number of reclaimed water users from 1995 to 1999, but only a net modest increase of 5% in the overall use of reclaimed water. By comparison, there was a dramatic increase of about 21% (64 to 77 mgd) in reclaimed water use from 1995 to 1997. But in 1998, there was also a 20% drop (to 62 mgd) in reuse. Then, in 1999, reuse increased by about 8% to 67 mgd. The amount of reclaimed water used each year is directly related to the amount of rainfall in a year, as demonstrated by the El Nino in 1998 and the La Nina in 1999. Too much rainfall in 1998, reduced groundwater recharge and irrigation needs, while the lack of rainfall in 1999 reduced the amount of dilution water available to the reclaimed water, therefore reduced groundwater recharge in 1999.

Other challenges to reuse include: -

- ? Storage - most reclaimed water is produced during the day, while most landscape irrigation

is done at night. One way of overcoming this is to provide daily operational storage. The City of Long Beach has converted 6.6 million gallons of its potable water storage into reclaimed water storage. There are several other users that plan to provide storage.

- ? Water quality impediments to groundwater recharge - there is still uncertainty in the fate of such constituents as organics, nitrogen, pathogens, and other emerging chemicals upon entering a groundwater aquifer. To address these uncertainties, the Districts are participating in a three-year "Soil-Aquifer Treatment" multi-disciplinary study, which will be completed this year. The report will be available in February of 2003.
- ? Other difficulties are service duplication with potable water purveyors, funding, interagency coordination, and regulatory approvals for groundwater recharge projects.

Although there were setbacks in water reuse during the last five years, the Districts view the long-term trend as promising.

### **Oversight Committee Meets to Discuss Aspects of the Study by the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority**

Cathy Chang

On January 31, 2000, the Regional Board issued a Time Schedule Order (No. 2000-12) to Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) to comply with the requirements contained in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (Order No. 99-143) for groundwater dewatering discharges to Dominguez Channel. As required by the Time Schedule Order, ACTA is in the process of conducting a set of special studies to evaluate the effects of chelation of metals, a method being used ACTA to reduce the toxicity of metals in their discharge. The Time Schedule Order specified a provision for an oversight committee to provide direction and oversight on the studies required. The oversight committee members, invited by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board, and chaired by the Assistant Executive Officer, consist of representatives from the USEPA, the Regional Board, ACTA, environmental groups, and Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The committee met on the 9th and the 22nd of March to discuss the selection of peer reviewer and approval of technical workplans proposed by ACTA. The committee will meet every other Wednesday for the next few months.

## **E. WATERSHED/COASTAL WATERS**

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

Shirley Birosik

#### **Calleguas Creek Watershed**

The Water Quality/Water Resources Subcommittee (co-chaired by Don Kendall of the Calleguas Municipal Water District and Deborah Smith, Assistant Executive Officer, RWQCB) last met on March 3. Regional Board representatives gave a progress report on the chloride TMDL currently underway in the watershed. Data generated by the Surface Water Element of the Calleguas Creek Characterization Study Monitoring Program is being evaluated and a report is in progress. Monitoring associated with the Groundwater Element of the program continues. Another component of the program, funded by Clean Water Act 205(j) monies, is evaluating nonpoint source contributions and is in the data analysis stage with the goal of developing a preliminary TMDL for nutrients and their effects in the watershed. A representative of USEPA also attended and gave a brief progress report on a project to assess the status of coastal streams. Last year they collected samples in the watershed during wet and dry weather. Bioassessment sampling was conducted once thus far and will be conducted again during the next six months. The Subcommittee is currently in the process of drafting a Water Resources/Water Quality Chapter for the Calleguas

Creek Watershed Management Plan. The Subcommittee is scheduled to meet next on April 28.

The Flood Protection/Sedimentation Subcommittee last met on March 13. They are currently involved with discussions on conducting a hydrologic study of the watershed. The group's next meetings are scheduled for April 24 and May 1.

The Public Education/Outreach Subcommittee met on March 24 and discussed issues related to the educational video that is being developed of the watershed. It has completed the first edition of a newsletter to cover watershed issues and events. Additionally, the group has produced a color brochure on the management plan process in the watershed.

A Land Use Subcommittee has recently been formed and will include representatives from local planning agencies.

The Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee met on February 1 and continues work on a wetlands study which includes a habitat mapping component. A general inventory of wetlands in the watershed is complete and potential sites for restoration have been identified. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for April 4. A Biology Advisory Group is being formed to aid this Subcommittee in review of technical materials.

The Steering Committee for the Watershed Management Plan met on March 30. A draft Table of Contents for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan being developed has been prepared.

The full Management Committee will also meet on March 30. Information about the management committee and its subcommittees can be found at <http://www.calleguas.com/cc.htm>

### **Los Angeles River Watershed**

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The last meeting was held on March 15 and included reports on meetings of the water resources, water quality, and multi-use projects committees. The group will be co-sponsoring a conference on April 15 which will include presentations on development of water quality standards and designation of beneficial uses. The Council's Internet address is <http://www.lasgriverswatershed.org>. The Friends of the LA River has a Los Angeles River e-mail discussion forum. To subscribe, e-mail to [la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com](mailto:la-river-discuss-subscribe@makelist.com). To view archives of past Los Angeles River discussions on the Internet, go to <http://www.egroups.com/list/la-river-discuss>. On August 10, 1999, members of the Watershed Council assisted the California Coastal Conservancy in conducting a tour of potential restoration sites in the lower watershed as part of a meeting of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project. These sites may be viewed at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

### **San Gabriel River Watershed**

On May 13, the Friends of the San Gabriel River will be hosting a session at Occidental College on water quality and advocacy. More information may be obtained at <http://www.lariver.oxy.edu/calendar/index.htm>

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

The Modeling and Monitoring Subcommittee of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council has drafted a watershed-wide monitoring program for the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group last met on May 6; a draft monitoring program has been distributed to stakeholders for comment. A major task will be finding partners to participate in this voluntary program to assess and help correct the water quality concerns in this area. No further meetings are currently scheduled for this group.

The Malibu Lagoon Task Force last met on March 21. The Task Force is concerned with lagoon breaching, the septic tracer study, and all aspects of the UCLA study of the lagoon. The UCLA study covers a hydrologic evaluation, appropriateness of various biological and water quality objectives, water level management, eutrophication issues, pathogens, and the historical condition of the lagoon. The study was funded by a California Coastal Conservancy grant with assistance by local agencies. A new facilitator is now leading the group toward refining the future goals of the Task Force which include developing a priority list of restoration options. The next meeting of the group has been scheduled for April 18.

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council also met on March 21 and included a report on subcommittee activities.

A watershed committee has been meeting in the Topanga Creek Watershed. A major near-term goal of this watershed committee is to prioritize potential actions previously identified in a draft Topanga Creek Watershed Management Study and start a coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process. A longer-term goal is preparation of a watershed management plan that will help address a number of issues including flood control in the canyon. The last meeting of the watershed committee occurred on February 2; the group held a Streambank Stabilization Workshop on March 4 in lieu of a regular committee meeting. The committee's website address is <http://www.TopangaOnline.com/twc/>.

The Technical Advisory Committee to the Topanga Creek Water Quality Study (funded through 205(j) monies) was formed to help guide the project and last met on November 30 to review preliminary data.

Other Santa Monica Bay Watershed activities are covered under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project item.

### **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of public agencies working cooperatively to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands and watersheds between Point Conception and the International border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, the Wetlands Project works to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for these priority sites, pool funds to undertake these projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The goal of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is to accelerate the pace, the extent, and the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration in Southern California through developing and implementing a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California's coastal wetlands and watersheds. Ultimately, the Wetlands Project's efforts will result in a long-term increase in the quantity and quality of the region's wetlands.

The Wetlands Project is headed by Board of Governors comprised of top officials from each of the participating agencies. The Southern California Wetlands Managers Group and the Public Advisory Committee serve as advisory committees to the Board. The Wetlands Managers Group is responsible for drafting the regional restoration plan and advising the Governing Board on regional acquisition, restoration, and enhancement priorities. The Wetlands Project has also established a panel of scientists to advise on regional goals, specific objectives, project criteria, and priorities. Governing Board meetings are public and are noticed at least 10 days prior to each meeting. If you sign up on the Wetlands Project email list, you will receive email notification of all board meetings. Minutes from previous meetings and other information about the group may be found on their website at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/index.html>.

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project continues to accept proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California.

Project nominations will be considered for the fiscal year 2000-2001 priority project list. Each spring, the Wetlands Recovery Project Managers Group recommends a list of priority projects to the Governing Board that meet the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board (available for viewing on the website). A key consideration is whether projects will actually be able to use funds for on the ground work in the upcoming fiscal year. Other potential projects are entered into a database for re-consideration in the future. The Wetlands Recovery Project does not have adequate funds for all of the projects on the priority list, so it has adopted a policy of "first-ready, first-funded." The Managers Group met with the local county task forces on March 14, 15, and 22 to consider additional projects for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The Governing Board will consider the updated priority list at its June 9 meeting. To nominate a project for consideration, please provide the project information as requested on the website. A project is more than a wetland or watershed that needs help. It must be a specific action. To be considered a priority project, acquisitions must have willing sellers and restoration work must have a local agency or non-profit that can carry out the work with the assistance of the Coastal Conservancy. The Wetlands Recovery Project helps to identify and fund worthy projects, but does not carry out the work. Limited funds are available for planning. Projects closer to the coast or clearly benefiting coastal resources will receive preference. A list of the current priority projects is provided on the website as well.

### **Watershed Management Initiative Chapter**

Each Regional Board has completed the process of producing a "chapter" on how that Board is implementing watershed management in the Region. The consolidated statewide chapter will become the basis for funding decisions including allocating money for monitoring, TMDL development, and grant monies disbursement. Each Region's Chapter is updated on an annual basis; the last update occurred in January 2000 and includes information on Regional Board implementation of the state's upgraded nonpoint source management program. Copies of this Region's current Chapter (as well as Appendices) and/or its Executive Summary may be obtained by contacting the Regional Board office, Regional Programs Section secretary. The document may also be sent out electronically (in MSWord97) and is also available on the Regional Board's webpage under Regional Programs at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>.

## **F. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

### **San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board Meeting**

Deborah Smith

On March 17th, Assistant Executive Officer, Deborah Smith attended the 2nd public meeting of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board at the Port of Long Beach offices in Long Beach. The Conservancy was recently formed as a result of the passage of SB 216.

A number of administrative decisions were made, including the election of a Chairperson (Mary Nichols, Secretary, Resources Agency) and two vice-chairs, and discussion of qualifications and job descriptions for an Executive Officer and Executive Secretary. Carl Blum (Los Angeles County) provided an overview of many ongoing efforts in the two watersheds. Later on in the public forum, Deborah provided similar comments to the Board, including a summary of Regional Board efforts, which are either directly or indirectly related to the mission of the Conservancy. These included watershed management efforts, TMDLs (highlighting the trash TMDL and other upcoming TMDLs for the LA and San Gabriel River watersheds), and stormwater issues. Other efforts that the Regional Board participates in were also mentioned, including the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Effort and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council. Deborah offered Regional Board support and assistance to Conservancy Board member Nancy Sutley (Deputy Secretary, Cal EPA) and to the Board at large.

### **Staff Participate in Meetings Regarding the County of Los Angeles Well**

### **Construction/Destruction Protocol**

Hugh Marley

Regional Board staff participated in a March 22, 2000 meeting of the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services Well Construction/Destruction Protocol meeting, which was facilitated by Supervisor Antonovich's staff. The meetings were in response to the County's and State's concerns regarding the adequacy of drillers' practices in constructing and decommissioning wells, and their impact on water quality. Hugh Marley gave a presentation on the ongoing Ventura County's Well Abandonment Program, which is partially funded through a 319(h) grant administered by this Board. Board staff continued working with the County and the well drillers to conceive and implement more comprehensive and effective methods for well construction and abandonment that will better safeguard the groundwater. The next meeting of this group will be held in April 2000.

### **Beach and Wetlands Recovery Forum**

Deborah Smith

On March 28th, Deborah Smith attended the Beach and Wetlands Recovery Forum: Restoring Some of California's Most Critical Resources at the State Capitol. The event was chaired by Assemblywoman Ducheny and speakers included Resources Agency Secretary, Mary Nichols and many legislators and local elected officials, primarily from Southern California, who spoke about the need to fund and protect our valuable wetlands and beaches.

### **Staff Speak at the Pacific Focus Ground Water Conference**

Yue Rong

Regional Board staff, Yue Rong (Underground Storage Tank Section), was a platform speaker at the 2000 Pacific Focus Ground Water Conference sponsored by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) on February 17, 2000 in San Francisco. The featured speech was entitled "Study of Horizontal and Vertical MTBE Plume Lengths in Los Angeles, California." Dr. Yue Rong presented the MTBE plume length study based on data obtained in our region. About 150 people were in the audience from all over the country.

### **Staff Meet with visitors from the Jinlin Province of China**

Wen Yang

On March 7, 2000, two environmental protection officials from Jinlin Province of China, Junqing Liang and Guocai Wang, visited the Regional Board. The visit was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and locally arranged by the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles. Mr. Robert Wu, a US Department of State Escort Officer, accompanied the visitors. Drs. Yi Lu and Wen Yang of the Regional Board staff met with the group and explained the system for regulating water quality in California. Presentations were given on the NPDES permit process for POTWs, storm water permits, Waste Discharge Requirements for landfills, and the Well Investigation Program.

### **Staff Meet with Visitors from China**

G. Jeffrey Hu

A delegation from the Water Resource Department of Hebei Province, the People's Republic of China, visited our office on March 8, 2000. The seven-person delegation was composed of management staff. Staff Rebecca Chou, Wayne Chiou, Weixing Tong and G. Jeffrey Hu gave presentations on the authority and functions of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, including the Watershed Regulatory Programs (NPDES), the Underground Tank Program, and the Remediation Program.

### **Staff Participate in a Panel Discussion at a Groundwater Resources Association Meeting**

Rebecca Chou

Dr. Rebecca Chou represented the Regional Board in a regulatory panel discussion at the Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) meeting on March 15, 2000 in Costa Mesa. The GRA also invited the Santa Ana Regional Board to be a part of the panel, which discussed several groundwater issues, including trends regarding regulations, enforcement, and permitting. Staff also presented our enforcement policy including the new legislation arising from passage of SB709.

#### **Staff Present at a SWANA-MOLO Course**

Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski

At the request of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, Blythe Ponek-Bacharowski gave a presentation on the duties and programs of the Regional Board on March 3, 2000, at the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) Training and Certification Course held in Diamond Bar.

#### **Staff Participate in a Symposium at the Air & Waste Management Association Annual Meeting**

Michael Lyons

Michael Lyons was invited to participate in a symposium on Contaminated Sediments Re-use and Clean-up, organized by Seth Molinari (URS Woodward-Clyde) as part of the AWMA's annual meeting on March 9, 2000 (Environmental Solutions in the 21st Century). Michael's presentation was entitled "Overview of Contaminated Sediment Management in the Los Angeles Basin." The talk summarized the ongoing efforts of the Contaminated Sediments Task Force to develop a long-term management plan for dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments, with a particular focus on attempts to re-use such material for beneficial purposes. Mark Gold, of Heal the Bay, and Rick Cameron, of the Port of Long Beach, also contributed to the symposium, addressing environmental and technical issues associated with re-use of contaminated sediments. The waste management specialists attending this session were interested in the regulatory process associated with dredged waste materials and the practical aspects of potential re-use alternatives.

### **G. ADMINISTRATIVE/TRAINING UPDATE**

#### **Personnel Report**

Dolores Renick

As of March 23, our staff was 125; 108 technical staff (including 2 part-time staff), 4 permanent administrative staff and 13 permanent clerical staff.

Staff is currently taking steps to fill 1 Section Chief position, 1 Unit Chief position, 11 technical positions, 1 Associate Information Systems Analyst, and 1 Executive Assistant.

Since February 15, the following appointments have been made:

**Felix Young**, Environmental Specialist I in the Enforcement Unit, appointed 3/13/00.

**Rafael Maestu**, Environmental Specialist I in the Enforcement Unit, appointed 3/15/00.

The following promotions were made:

**Gwendolyn Monroe**, Staff Services Analyst.

**Dennis Dasker**, Assistant Executive Officer, Groundwater Division effective March 20, 2000.

**Dolores Renick**, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Administrative Unit effective January 5, 2000.

The following separated from Region 4:

**Robyn Goodman**, Executive Assistant, transferred to Department of Corporations.